

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 IO-14 AF-10 EUR-25

SAM-01 DRC-01 /123 W

----- 118425

O R 051030Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1708

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

CONFIDENTIAL TEL AVIV 1247

E.O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IS, US

SUBJ: ALLEGED US INTERVENTION IN ISRAEL'S GOVERNMENT

CRISIS

1. BBC JERUSALEM CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL ELKINS (US CITIZEN) STATED IN SIX AM GMT NEWSCAST TODAY THAT MRS MEIR'S REVERSAL LAST EVENING OF HER MARCH 3 DECISION TO DISCONTINUE HER EFFORTS TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE RESULTED, INTER ALIA, FROM URGINGS BY TOP US OFFICIALS WHO OPPOSE IDEA OF NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD INCLUDE LIKUD. ISRAELI PRESS RECENTLY HAS ALSO DESCRIBED USG AS OPPOSED TO NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF LIKUD'S HARD LINE ON ARAB-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ISSUES.

2. IF THIS SUBJECT ARISES AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING, I RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT SEEK TO SHOOT DOWN NOTION THAT USG WOULD ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE ISRAELI INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION. IT IS TRUE THAT

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SOME ISRAELI POLITICIANS IN PAST HAVE USED THEIR US CONNECTION

TO GOOD POLITICAL ADVANTAGE IN ISRAEL WITHOUT HARMFUL SIDE EFFECTS,
INCLUDING MRS MEIR (SEE TEL AVIV 10437 NOTAL OF DEC 27).
HOWEVER, THIS AT BEST IS VERY TRICKY BUSINESS BECAUSE OF
ENDEMIC FEARS OF ISRAELI POPULATION ABOUT OUTSIDE PRESSURES ON
GOI RE ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUES AND BECAUSE OF RECENT INCREASED
OPPOSITION AND DECREASED GOVERNMENT STRENGTH WHICH CONCEIVABLY
MIGHT DRAMATICALLY CHANGE SITUATION HERE IN NEAR FUTURE. I
BELIEVE THERE IS CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL HARM IN IT FOR US-ISRAELI
RELATIONS.

3. TEXT FOLLOWS OF PERTINENT PORTION OF ELKINS' COMMENTARY. QUOTE
MOST OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT MRS MEIR WAS PERSUADED TO CHANGE HER
MIND BY THE ENTREATIES OF LABOR ALIGNMENT LEADERS, AND OTHER PUBLIC
PERSONALITIES WHO VISITED HER THROUGHOUT YESTERDAY, AND BY THE
ADVICE OF MEMBERS OF HER IMMEDIATE FAMILY, HER SON, DAUGHTER AND
SON-IN-LAW. THESE CLOSE RELATIVES ARE SAID TO HAVE ARGUED THAT FOR
MRS MEIR TO LEAVE THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP NOW WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT
TO ACCEPTING DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MISTAKES AND SHORTCOMINGS
OF THE OCTOBER WAR; AND FINALLY IT IS NOT RULED OUT THAT THE PRIME
MINISTER MAY HAVE BEEN URGED TO STAY ON IN HER POST BY TOP MEMBERS
OF THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION, WHO WOULD NOT WISH TO SEE HER
PROPOSED LABOR-DOMINATED GOVERNMENT REPLACED BY A COALITION IN-
CLUDING THE RIGHTWING OPPOSITION BLOC LIKUD, WHICH FOLLOWS A
HARD LINE REGARDING
THE ARAB-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT...UNQUOTE.
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